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Agenda item 21 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Romania, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe: revised draft resolution

Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling also all Security Council resolutions and the statements by its President regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling further the Ceasefire Agreement signed at Lusaka[1] and the Kampala disengagement plan,[2] the obligations of all signatories to those agreements and the obligations deriving from all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000,

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all States in the region,

Alarmed at the plight of the civilian population throughout the country, and calling for its protection,

[1] S/1999/815, annex.
[2] See S/2000/330 and Corr.1, paras. 21-28.

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Gravely concerned at the deteriorating humanitarian, economic and social situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular in eastern Congo, and at the effect of the continued fighting on the inhabitants of the country, especially women and children,

Deeply concerned at the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, in particular among women and girls, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Expressing its deep concern at the dire consequences of the conflict for the humanitarian and human rights situations and at the findings contained in the reports on the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo[3] in this regard,

Gravely concerned at the negative impact of war on the promotion of the sustainable development in the Great Lakes Region,

Deeply concerned at the continued extensive destruction of life and property, as well as the severe damage to infrastructure and the environment, suffered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Bearing in mind the fact that the Democratic Republic of the Congo hosts thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries, which places a great burden on its limited resources and expressing the hope that conditions will be created that will facilitate a safe and voluntary return of refugees,

Recalling that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a least developed country with severe economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure and aggravated by the ongoing conflict,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and security and the ability of the country to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and take effective steps towards the rapid revitalization of the economy, and reaffirming the urgent need to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its damaged economy and in its efforts to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the signature by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda of the Peace Agreement at Pretoria on 30 July 2002[5] and the signature by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda of the Agreement at Luanda on 6 September 2002 and welcomes also the efforts of the Governments of South Africa and of Angola, and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in facilitating the adoption of these agreements;

3. *Urges* all parties concerned in the region to cease military activities and to cease any support for armed groups;

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[3] S/2001/357, S/2001/1072 and S/2002/1146.

[4] A/57/377.

[5] See S/2002/914, annex.

4. *Welcomes* the decision taken by all foreign parties to withdraw fully their troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the progress made in the implementation of those processes, stresses the importance for the withdrawals to be completed in a transparent, orderly and verified manner and calls upon the signatories of these agreements to implement them fully;

5. *Urges* all parties concerned in the region to cease any recruitment, training and use of child soldiers, contrary to international law, welcomes the initial steps taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to demobilize and reintegrate child soldiers and urges the Government and all parties to continue their efforts in this regard;

6. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Congolese parties to achieve an inclusive agreement on the political transition, stresses the importance of such an agreement to the wider peace process, and calls upon all Congolese parties to cooperate actively with a view to the speedy conclusion of such an agreement which is needed for improved humanitarian access;

7. *Stresses* that a successful conclusion to the peace process and the resumption of economic activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are inextricably linked, and underlines the need for further international economic assistance in this regard;

8. *Expresses its deep concern* over the worsening humanitarian situation throughout the country and the very high number of internally displaced persons in the eastern part and in particular in the Ituri region, and urges all parties to avoid further population displacement and to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin;

9. *Also expresses its deep concern* especially at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Ituri region, calls upon all Congolese parties on the ground to cooperate fully within the Ituri Pacification Commission with a view to reaching an agreement promptly and calls on all States in the region to bring to bear their influence on the Congolese parties so that this agreement can be reached as soon as possible;

10. *Welcomes* the adoption of new coordination mechanisms aimed at ensuring a coherent and effective response to the multifaceted humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

11. *Urges* compliance with international human rights law and urges all parties to respect international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention of 1949[6] and the additional Protocols thereto of 1977;[7]

12. *Urges* all parties to respect fully international humanitarian law so as to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel;

13. *Calls* for the reopening of the Kisangani-Kindu rail and river link in order to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as access for humanitarian personnel;

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[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

14. *Calls upon* the international community to increase its support for humanitarian relief activities within the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

15. *Invites* Governments to continue to provide support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to consult urgently with regional leaders, in coordination with the Interim President of the African Union, on ways to bring about a peaceful and durable solution to the conflict, in accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions;

(b) To continue to consult with regional leaders, in coordination with the Interim President of the African Union, in order to convene, when appropriate, an international conference on peace, security and development in Central Africa and in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union, to address the problems of the region in a comprehensive manner;

(c) To keep under review the economic situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to promoting participation in and support for a programme of financial and material assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enable it to meet its urgent needs in terms of economic recovery and reconstruction;

(d) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution.